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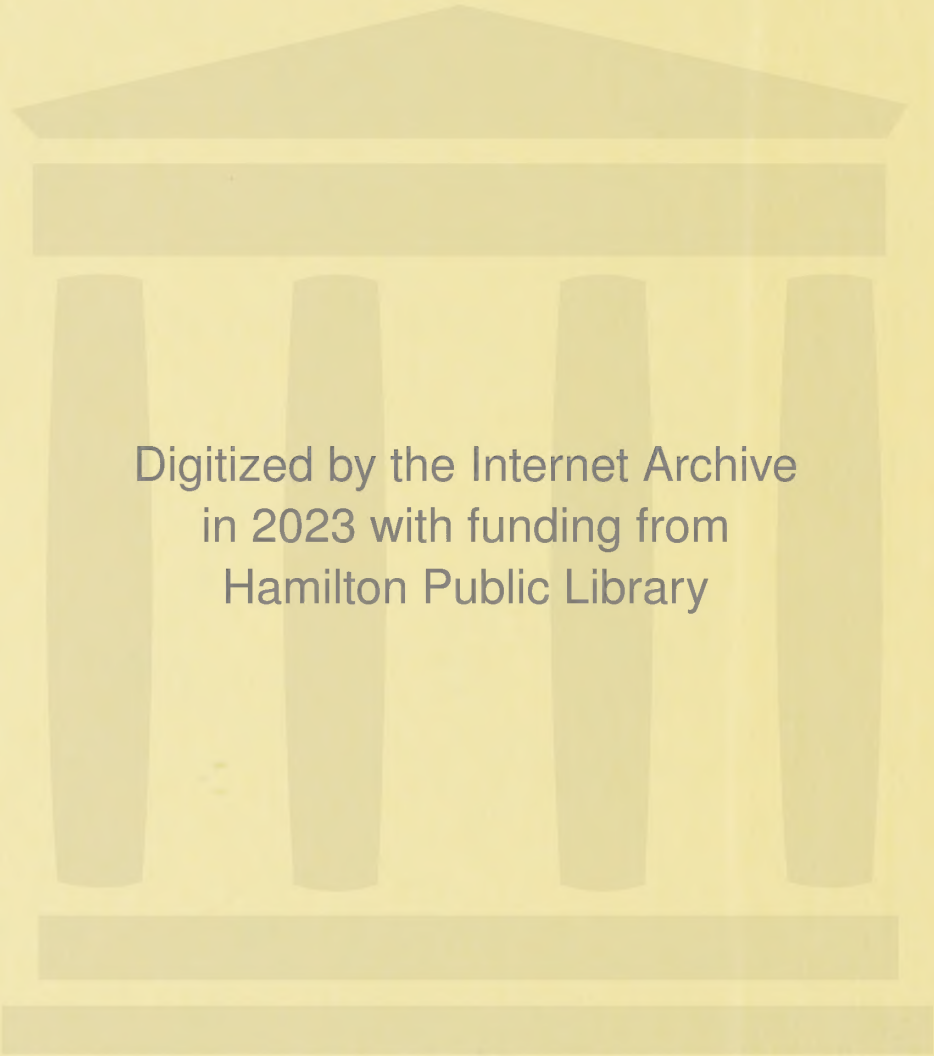

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Kentucky.
Memorial of the Legislature
of Kentucky relative to
compensation to be made for
1816.

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MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATURE

OF

THE STATE OF KENTUCKY

RELATIVE

TO COMPENSATION TO BE MADE

FOR

HORSES

LOST IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 9, 1816.

Ordered to lie on the table.

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM A. DAVIS.

1816.

A

MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS,

Relative to Compensation for Horses lost by the Citizens of this State, during the late War, while in the Service of the United States.

To the honourable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled.

THE memorial of the legislature of the State of Kentucky, would respectfully call the attention of congress to a subject of considerable importance to many of their citizens, who unfortunately lost their horses during the various campaigns carried on from this State, in the late war with the British and their savage allies; particularly on the north-western frontier, where the losses sustained were peculiarly severe, owing to many circumstances which we will detail, and which at the time, demanded every sacrifice.

The extensive wilderness, bordering upon our north-western frontiers, every part of which was infested by a cruel and savage enemy, made it necessary that large bodies of mounted riflemen should be employed, in order to meet the various attack of an insidious foe, and to comply with which, the people of the western country never hesitated, or inquired what compensation was to be made them. They relied upon the justice of their country; which, they believed, would never be withheld from the soldier who had risked his life in defence of his country's rights.

The legislature are aware of the provision made by act of congress for the use and risk of horses lost by mounted men, previous to the declaration of war; and they have no doubt there are some cases which have not as great claims upon the government as others. Yet, when the situation of the State of Kentucky is taken into consideration, it will be found that the claims of her citizens to compensation for horses lost during the war, will be found not inferior to any other section of the Union. Placed at a considerable distance from the scene of military operations, the calls for men by the government, were generally made at a time when the greatest despatch and energy were required.

In the summer of 1812, the surrender of general Hull, the fall of Detroit, Mackinaw and Chicago, and the consequent siege of forts Wayne and Harrison, called aloud for all the patriotism of the State of Kentucky.

The emergency could only be met by mounted men, who, in a few days, were found filling up the ranks of generals Harrison and Hopkins: the remaining forts were saved, the frontiers protected, a savage enemy checked in his bloody career, and destruction and retribution carried back into his own country; and the various tribes of hostile Indians, flushed with their recent success, were driven to seek refuge under the cannon of their British friends.

In aid of which important services, the regiment of dragoons under the command of colonel Simrall, the volunteer company of captain Smith, and the twelve months volunteers with captain Garrard, contributed their full portion of zeal and patriotism at the battle of Mississiniwa in the midst of winter, besides many other important services

which lost to them many horses, besides those killed in battle; these are cases which richly deserve the notice of a grateful country.

Early in the year 1813, a regiment of mounted riflemen, under the command of colonel Richard M. Johnson, were hurried into service to relieve fort Meigs and protect the frontiers of the State of Ohio. This regiment was usefully employed, and it is believed fully answered the expectation of their country. Previous to the second investiture of fort Meigs, they penetrated far into the enemy's country, and by forced marches reached that important post at a critical period, and were employed by the commanding general to procure intelligence of the enemy's movements near Malden, by which means general Harrison was enabled to carry on his operations in security. These and subsequent marches of unusual celerity, had a tendency to break down and destroy many of the best horses belonging to that corps.

Again, when it was found, late in the month of July 1813, that the contemplated force of regular troops could not be collected, and the commanding general of the north-western army was compelled to call upon the governor of Kentucky for an additional militia force.

The lateness of the season, the necessity of the times, the importance of the service required, as well as the critical period which had arrived, in which the hopes of a desponding country were to be realized or again blasted, all combined to point out to the executive of this State, that mounted men could alone meet the approaching crisis, and render that service so loudly called for by every friend to his country. With these views it is well known that between three and four thousand

mounted men, rallied round the standard of their country, which had been erected by the venerable Shelby, many of whom had to travel between two and three hundred miles before they reached the point of rendezvous. With these troops, without delaying a single day unnecessarily, the governor of Kentucky moved on to the head-quarters of the north-western army, where his arrival was as critical as it was important, and absolutely necessary to meet the views of general Harrison. Forced marches were required and performed : our citizens did not linger on the road, or suffer their spirits to be depressed; for many, after losing their horses hy fatigue, would keep up with the army on foot, to the astonishment as well as pride of their country and fellow-soldiers.

We cannot avoid further stating to your honourable body, that in order to take advantage of commodore Perry's success upon Lake Erie and carry the war into the enemy's country, it was necessary to leave the horses of the troops enclosed in the peninsula formed by the Sandusky bay and Portage River, where they subsisted in the forest upwards of one month, which much reduced them, and consequently produced many serious and unavoidable losses on the homeward march, as a sufficiency of forage could not be procured at that place.— An important victory was gained, and the most sanguine anticipations of the government realized.— And will the nation now, on the *return of peace*, refuse to remunerate our citizens, many of whom are poor, and some of whom have lost their only horse? we trust not :—and therefore earnestly solicit the attention of congress to this subject, which though of small moment to the nation at large, yet is important to individuals.

We would also include the cases of horses lost during the fall of 1814, under major P. Dudley, who served with general M'Arthur, in Upper Canada, who we believe rendered important services to our country in cutting off the supplies of the enemy, and which would have been most severely felt by them in case another campaign had opened in that quarter.

Nor can her citizens have less claim on the justice of their country to remunerate them for lost property; who, during an inclement season, and through a country peopled by savage enemies only, encountered every danger and difficulty, in the wagon department, transporting provisions, forage, and camp equipage, for the army and garrisons of the north-west; many of whom were induced to embark in that dangerous employ, more from a desire to serve their country than from the prospect of gain. Nor was the services rendered their country by the detachment of Kentucky troops under the command of colonel Wm. Russell, on the Wabash River, less meritorious, nor the losses sustained by them less just to remunerate.

We therefore most seriously request, that the cases of lost horses alluded to in this memorial, be attended to, and that our citizens be fully compensated, as far as the justice of their several cases may require: and for the purpose of bringing this subject before congress, be it

Resolved, By the general assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, that the governor of this State be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing memorial, to each of our senators and representatives in congress, with a request that they immediately lay the same before that body, and that

they use their best influence to have the same complied with, as soon as the nature of the case will admit.

JOHN J. CRITTENDEN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

R. HICKMAN,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—December 21st, 1815.

ISAAC SHELBY.

Secretary's Office, Frankfort, December 25th, 1815.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the enrolled memorial and resolution filed in this office.

M. D. HARDIN, *Sec'ry.*

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